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Lockpicking Combination Locks By Hand **By Francis Morgan**

Do you know the bike combination locks that are attached to the chain? The locks that you turn the dials to show the correct 4 digits in a row and it releases. Well let me explain how these locks work, there is a male and a female end. The male end is a shaft, which has 4 notches cut out of it. The female end has the 4 digits with a hole at the opposite end from the chain for the male end to slip into. Now the digits that you turn are cogs with a notch cut out at the correct number. When you enter the correct 4 digit number all the number notches are aligned which means the male shaft can slip in easily. The female numbers are then turned to a random combination trapping the male end (just like in real life).

Now picking these things is simple, a 10 year old could do it (Trust me I figured this out in my youth messing about with my bike lock).

Start by gripping the chain at both ends of the lock and trying to pull it apart, now maintain that force. Starting from the left hand side, turn the first digit to a number and try wiggling the cog from side to side. If the cog has no movement when you try this move on to the next digit on the cog and try the same thing. Continue to do this until you find a digit that wiggles freely. This is the correct digit, now move on to the next cog and do the same process. When you get the correct digit on the last cog the lock will pull apart.

How does this work? Well, when you pull the male shaft away from the female it is stopped because of the cog not being at a notch position. You are pulling the cog to the right hand side, so the pressure of it against the next cog means there is no movement. When you reach the correct number because of the notch there is no pressure on the cog so it moves freely.

I can go into a busy park and pick a lock in this way in less than a minute. Because you don’t use any tools and are so quick no one gives you a second glance.

Enjoy your new bike!!!